



## TONTO NATIONAL FOREST **NEWS RELEASE**

*Tonto National Forest, 2324 East McDowell Road, Phoenix, Arizona 85006* [www.fs.usda.gov/Tonto](http://www.fs.usda.gov/Tonto)

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**For Immediate Release**  
**August 31, 2011 – 1630 hrs.**

**Contact: Fire Information Officer**  
**602-525-1042**

**Two fires being managed on the Globe Ranger District**  
**Tonto National Forest**  
Update – 1630 hrs.

**Globe, Ariz.** (August 31, 2011 – 1630 hrs.) – Globe Ranger District fire specialists are currently managing two lightning-caused wildfires: the Frio (750 acres), in the Pinal Mountain range, and the 650 Fire, which began Aug. 28 northwest of Superior in the Superstition mountains on Montana Mountain.

The 650 fire has moved into the Superstition wilderness area and is around 1,500 acres in size, spreading to the northeast, with some minimal backing to the south. Smoke and flames from the 650 fire may be visible to East Valley residents.

Personnel and equipment are assigned to these fires and fire management officials continue to be pleased with the fire behavior, direction and favorable weather conditions.

A burn-out on Madera around the electronics tower will be conducted later today on the Frio fire.

The Kellner fire in the Pinal Mountains is now contained.

Vistors and residents may see light-to-moderate smoke throughout the day, with the possibility of smoke drifting towards and settling in Globe and Miami.

Due to current weather conditions, including monsoon humidity, these lightning-caused fires can be allowed to play their natural role in the ecosystem.

Managed wildfires are monitored by fire specialists to meet resource benefits such as allowing them to burn naturally in fire-adapted ecosystems when it can be done safely, effectively and efficiently (pose no immediate risk to life, safety, property or resources).

A managed wildfire is started from a natural ignition, such as lightning. Wildfires that are human-caused cannot be classified as a managed wildfire. Managed wildfires are utilized to improve and benefit natural resources. Benefits to natural resources derived from a managed wildfire may include:

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- Reduction of heavy fuel loading that diminishes the threat of catastrophic wildfire.
- Reintroduction of fire into the landscape to perform its historical role of cleaning the forest floor of dead and down vegetation, eliminating sickly trees, and generally keeping the ecosystem healthy.
- Raising the crown base height. The crown base simply means the lowest limbs on a individual tree that would allow a ground fire to climb into those limbs and transition the fire vertically up into the tree to create a crown fire.
- Recycling valuable nutrients back into the soil.
- Maintaining and improving wildlife habitat.

For further information, please call the Globe Ranger District at 928-402-6200. Residents can also stay updated on prescribed fires at [www.fs.usda.gov/Tonto](http://www.fs.usda.gov/Tonto). To report a wildland fire, the fire emergency number is 866-746-6516, or dial 9-1-1.

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For general information on fire activity and restrictions in Arizona call toll free 877-864-6985, or visit the. **Southwest Coordination Center website:** <http://gacc.nifc.gov/swcc/> or <http://www.publiclands.org/firenews/AZ.php>

#### **Useful Websites:**

**National Incident Information System** [www.incweb.org](http://www.incweb.org)  
**Southwest Coordination Center:** <http://gacc.nifc.gov/swcc/>  
**National Interagency Fire Center:** [www.nifc.gov](http://www.nifc.gov)  
**National Fire Plan:** [www.forestsandrangelands.gov](http://www.forestsandrangelands.gov)  
**FireWise:** [www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org)

#### **ARIZONA Websites:**

[www.azfireinfo.com](http://www.azfireinfo.com) (fire prevention and restrictions)  
[www.publiclands.org/firenews/AZ.php](http://www.publiclands.org/firenews/AZ.php) (fire restrictions and other public lands information)  
[www.azsf.az.gov](http://www.azsf.az.gov) (wildfire information and Firewise)  
[www.azein.gov](http://www.azein.gov) (Arizona Emergency Information Network for ALL hazard emergency and disaster information)

**Fire Restriction Information: Toll free 1 (877) 864-6985**

**To report a wildfire, call 1-866-746-6516 or dial 911.**

650 Fire location (correction)

Latitude: 33 24 1

Longitude: 111 09 0